Journal of the Washington County Historical Society

Flash Back

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Volume 56, Number 4, Autumn 2006

Washington County Historical Society

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FLASHBACK

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Volume 56 **Autumn 2006** **Number 4**

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Cover: This advertisement appeared in the Ozark Playgrounds Association Official Directory for 1962 (Courtesy Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries).

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QUICKTOWN

Fayetteville Arkansas Circa 1908

Not to scale

QUICKTOWN: A RELIC OF EARLY FAYETTEVILLE

DENELE PITTS CAMPBELL

Quicktown was the name of a small Fayetteville neighborhood southwest of the Fayetteville square along Prairie Street and Government Avenue. Named after the Quick family and properties owned by James W. Quick and his son William R. Quick, Quicktown rose and fell between 1883 and the early 1900s. During its prime, the "town" hosted residences and businesses offering supplies, smithing, and other necessities of the day.

Quicktown's eastern edge began where West Avenue hits its southern terminus at Prairie Street just south of Fayetteville's new Blair Library. The so-called town then spread westward along both sides of Prairie Street. At that time, Prairie Street was named Bridge Street. Bridge Street did not go eastward from West Avenue as Prairie does today, since Barker & Stephenson's brickyard occupied this area as early as 1868. Rather, the route traveled west for about two and a half blocks.The first block crossed a spur railroad track, the old rail bed of which is now Fayetteville's multi-use Frisco Trail. The next block crossed a creek, now named Tanglewood Branch – here was the bridge for which the street was named. In another half block, it ended with a left turn onto Cemetery Road (now Government Avenue), a long-established route leading several blocks south to the government cemetery and then to points south and west. This route had been "surveyed and supervised" by the United States Army in 1835 as part of the old military road from St. Louis to Ft. Smith.[1] Undoubtedly the early roadway traveled by team-pulled wagons and men on horseback

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Denele Pitts Campbell of Fayetteville is a frequent contributor to *Flashback: Journal of the Washington County Historical Society.*

did not make these turns at ninety degree angles like the streets today. In the 1904 Fayetteville City Directory, Bridge Street's location was described as "Quicktown, begins at Cemetery Road thence east to south West Street."

Regular crossing of this year-round creek would have required a bridge early in Fayetteville's existence, and the importance of the bridge is reflected in the original naming of the street. Established early as a military road, this was the primary trail out of town, trod first by explorers and settlers, and later by travelers as the least steep route down from the town square. Settlers obtained goods from the west: Cane Hill, Evansville, and Fort Gibson. Bridge Street was part of the route used by the Butterfield Stage in the late 1850s and by armies of both the North and the South during the Civil War. After the war the established roadway continued to support mounted riders and wagon traffic, facilitated the use of the national cemetery, and led to commercial enterprise and residences along the route.

Two local streets adjoined Bridge Street in its short length by the late 1800s, one to the north which was named Quick and one to the south, named Gregg. In the 1904 directory the route of Quick Street, which now is also named Gregg, was described as being from "Bridge north to railroad." Evidently, it connected to the tracks at the corner now occupied by the Key Architecture building but did not continue north beyond that point. There was probably a dirt lane that trekked northward which later became the Prairie-to-Center section of Gregg Street The 1908 Fayetteville City Map shows a dotted line running north from Bridge to Center Street along the current mostly creekside route of South Gregg.

While today much of this neighborhood rests under a canopy of tall trees, in the late 1800s the area would have been largely cleared. Removing trees increased property values significantly. Trees were cut along the rail beds for the main track and spur track, and also along the creek bottom running between the two tracks to allow for household gardens in this small valley. The creek would

have been a year-round water supply as it was (and is) fed by a large spring rising near the Walton Arts Center at Spring Street. Marshy land alongside the creek would have been drained and the waterway channelized to allow for optimum land usage.

The Quicks's land ownership at the area named "Quicktown" lasted about two decades, but like the very definition of the word "quick," Quicktown came and went in even less time. By the time of the 1908 city map, Quick Street was not shown and Bridge Street had become Prairie Street. James's land ownership at Quicktown peaked around 1890, and after the untimely deaths of two adult children in 1891 and 1893, he sold off his remaining properties there. In 1906, he repurchased some of this property. His son William retained Quicktown property ownership at least through 1908.

During Quicktown's brief heyday, several residences and businesses occupied street frontage along Bridge and two or three blocks south down Cemetery Road. Goodspeed's 1889 history provides the first business listing for the area by naming James W. Quick as a blacksmith. The location of his forge, as marked on the attached map, is now vacant land Unfortunately no other record exists for Quicktown business activity that is contemporary to its prime years except a reference by William Campbell in his 1928 *100 Years of Fayetteville*. He writes that all the town's stores surrounded the Fayetteville square until "they began to spring up in the nineties...down by the old White mill, out the Mt. Comfort road, down in 'Quicktown.'"[2]

The 1900 census for Fayetteville is the next record of Quicktown's activity. It lists James W. Quick's blacksmith business, and a few doors down from the blacksmith operation, the 1900 census finds his son William working as a merchant. The 1900 neighborhood hosted residences and businesses including a second hand store, machine shop, grocer/mercantile, barber, drug store, and probably other enterprises as well. No street addresses were given for these establishments; it may be that—like James

Quick's forge—they existed for a decade or more before the census taker arrived.

The 1904 Fayetteville City Directory listed residents living on Quick Street, including laborer John Perry and his daughter Addie, farmer Joseph Wilson (probably the stepson of James Quick), and J. H. and Edgar Fritts, teamsters. Will Quick is listed as a grocery merchant living on "Quick Street adjacent to Bridge." In the neighborhood of Bridge, Quick, Gregg, Cemetery, and the corner of Wall (now 6th Street), the 1904 directory lists 48 individuals residing in 32 households/rooms. The working class occupants of these quarters included building tradesmen (stone cutter, stonemason, molder, carpenter, wood worker), railroad employees, merchants (grocers, barber), laborers, teamsters, farmers, firemen, a couple of retirees, and those ubiquitous Fayetteville residents, University of Arkansas students.

The 1908 Fayetteville City Map shows W. L. Langston, Blacksmith, in the old James Quick location. The map also shows a grocer with warehouse, drugstore, church, and fire department arrayed mostly along Cemetery Road. W. R. Quick's residence is shown in the location described in the 1904 directory, but the map makes no mention of "merchant."[3]

The Quicks for whom Quicktown was named did not own land in Fayetteville until 1883, but the family had been in and out of the area since before the Civil War. James W. Quick was born January 3, 1839, in Edgar County, Illinois. James was in Polk County, Missouri, by 1859, when he married Mary Hurt. (Polk County lies about 30 miles north of Springfield.) Their first child was born in 1860 in Sebastian County, Arkansas, and the second child in 1861 in Scott County. Perhaps the Kansas-Missouri violence preceding the Civil War caused the young family to seek safer territory, or perhaps they were simply looking for better opportunities. Between 1864 and 1873 five more children were born, all in Polk County, Missouri. The 1880 census finds James, Mary, and family in Sebastian County, Arkansas, with five children attending school

By March 26, 1883, James Quick and family were in Washington County, when he filed a military pension claim with the assistance of the county clerk's office.The claim records show that he enlisted June 16, 1863, and was discharged April 3, 1865. He served as farrier (horseshoer) for Company E, 1st Arkansas Cavalry Volunteers, United States. He reported no Confederate service and no hospitalization. He fought at the Battle of Fayetteville (Tomahawk Bluff) and served with Capts. Galloway and King, Lt. Kincaid, and Sgt. Dotherty. He named comrades George Hoyle and James Irby and described himself as 5 feet 11 inches with dark complexion, gray eyes, and dark hair. He was a member and officer of Travis Post No. 19, Grand Army of the Republic, Fayetteville.[4]

As the "founder" of Quicktown, James W. Quick bought his first property in Washington County August 25, 1883, a 0.16 acre outlot in the area soon to be called Quicktown, for which he paid $20. Over the next three decades he was able to purchase over fifteen parcels of land in Washington County, although this included acreage or lots at Greathouse Springs, Fayette Junction, Prairie Grove, and other areas of the county. He sold seven lots and financed three mortgages between 1885 and 1889; seven lots and two mortgages between 1890 and 1899; and six lots between 1900 and 1910. Real estate taxes paid by James between 1884 and 1894 included up to four properties in Quicktown—Block 16 Township 16, Range 30 in the Southeast portion of the Southwest Quarter and the Southwest portion of the Southeast Quarter. In 1884 he owned two parcels there for a total of 1.25 acres. By 1885 he was paying taxes on 2.91 acres in the same area. These properties increased in value from $350 in 1884 to $600 in 1887, probably due to the addition of buildings. By 1889 he owned two additional parcels, for a total of 3.7 acres valued at $875. Between 1892 and 1893 his holdings were reduced to 1.66 acres with a value of $300, and 1894 was his last year shown in real estate tax records for the Quicktown area. However, two of his Quicktown lots were sold that year to James Cowan, and in 1901 James Quick's second wife, Celia,

rebought the two lots from James Cowan, who is believed to have been Celia's father. In October 1906 Celia sold those lots back to James Quick in spite of their pending divorce.

James's son William R. Quick, the other Quick who owned land at Quicktown, also bought, sold, and mortgaged properties in Washington County, although not as many as his father. On the 1908 map W. R. Quick was shown as owner of a large parcel of property on either side of Quick Street fronting Bridge, at which time he was thirty-five and had a wife, Clara Elizabeth (Kessler), and an eight-year-old daughter, Annie. A large two-story house torn down in the early 1990s which occupied the corner lot north of Bridge (Prairie) and east of Quick (S. Gregg) was likely the W. R. Quick residence. A slight knoll marks its former location. County records show he purchased a total of five parcels of land, the first from his father in 1891 (Fayette Junction area), and several hundred acres in the Hazel Valley area. Will is not found in the 1910 census, but in 1920 he was working as an auctioneer in "general practice" and residing in Prairie Grove along with his wife, Clara, and three additional children. At the time of James's death in 1926, Will was named in the will to receive some money and a share of James's properties, while several lots of James's Prairie Grove property were left to Will's daughter, Annie (then married to A. L. Harris). Clara filed for divorce in 1927, at which point William was nowhere to be found, and she ended up with custody of their remaining minor child, William, and eleven parcels of Prairie Grove real estate. No subsequent records are found for William R. Quick.

William was the last child of James's marriage to Mary Hurt, who died in Fayetteville September 30, 1886, when William was 13. Two older siblings died in Fayetteville, George M. in 1891 (age 22), and Nancy J. in 1893 (age 29), while John H.(age 17–19) died in Sebastian County between 1878 and 1880. James had seven children by his first wife, Mary, and six more by his subsequent wife, Celia (Cecilia) Ann Cowan Wilson, whom he married at

Black Jack, Indian Territory, in 1888. In 1893, he gave his son William his power of attorney and moved to Indian Territory, where he obtained more land.

James pursued several legal actions in Fayetteville, including successful suits against parties who failed to pay for lots purchased from him at Quicktown. Emma and W. W. Harrison paid only $8.60 toward a mortgage of $396 at 10% interest with Moore and Gallihar/Gollaher as security and paid out through McIlroy and Co., bankers.[5] This property was sold at public auction in 1894. Another property deal involving L. W. Martin (also named were W. F. Winger, Annie Winger, Lester Lollar, and A. L. Trent) came before the court in 1916, with nothing being paid in two years on a vendor's lien of $750 at 6% interest. Quick bought back this parcel at public auction for $900.55.

By the time of the 1920 Fayetteville City Directory, no Quicks are listed and there is no reference to Quicktown. However, Quicktown as a place lingered in Fayetteville's collective memory. Business locations can't be specifically tracked earlier than 1920, since the earliest surviving city directory (1904) gave only street names but not addresses. The next surviving issues are 1920, then 1929, 1935, 1939, and 1947. Quicktown businesses listed in these five directories include:

- location of recently closed American Milling (500 Prairie) hosted the Owen C. Herr garage in 1929, O. K. Garage in 1935, Ozark Coal Company and Wilkinson Hatchery in 1939, and Wilkinson Hatchery & Milling in 1947;
- the old "skate place" (505 Prairie) was Standard Oil Company in 1935, Standard Esso Oil Company in 1939, and Standard Oil Company Bulk Plant in 1947;
- Campbell 66 Express Inc. 1947 (343 Government, also known to have occupied 400–402), secondhand store shown on the 1908 map, Henry Barnes Cabinet Shop 1935 and 1939 (417 Government), George W. Widner grocery (423 Government), Algie Moore grocery 1904–1920 then W. Lee Moore filling

station and grocery 1929–1947 (425 Government), all sites now covered by warehouses, although the Moore grocery/filling station may have been on the corner of 6th later owned by Fred Hannah for a boat sales store in the late 1950s;

- R. S. Black groceries, Sims & Curtis groceries, and B. Mitchell groceries–notions–dry goods–cigars 1904 were all located along the east side of Cemetery Road north of 6th, but were not identified with street numbers. B. Mitchell operation is the most likely candidate to have been the predecessor at Hammontree's 1920 site;
- D. E. Hammontree dry goods, feed & flour, hardware, groceries, and general merchandise 1920 (412 Cemetery), currently site of wood storage;
- G. F. Puterbaugh grocery 1920 supplanted either R. S. Black or Sims & Curtis at 428 Cemetery, which then became Rich Mercantile (Edw. H. Rich) by 1929 and then Thomas J. Jefferson, Barber, from 1939 through 1947. This building remains today as the home of Heartwood Gallery art collective and Heartwood Creations cabinet shop.
- Chas. C. Smith filling station 1929 then T. K. Smith filling station 1935 occupied 430 Cemetery, a location not now identified. May have been site now facing 6th Street at corner of Government or may have been lost when 6th Street was extended east from Cemetery to connect with south School Avenue. Also lost with the street extension was a fire station.

Three structures of early construction remain standing along the east side of the 400 block of Government. Evidence of their age may be noted in their native stone foundations set down without footings, small central part built first with later added sections, pine flooring, and construction materials such as lathe board roof decking with shake shingles.

Businesses located along Cemetery to the south of 6th Street included Marland Oil, later Continental Oil; B & M Cabinet Company, Budd Post & Hardwood Mill; Red Star Spoke Company,

later Miller Hardwood Company, Broyles planing mill and then Fayetteville Iron & Metal. These locations were outside the immediate area originally referred to as Quicktown, as were businesses located on Prairie Street east of the original Quicktown which developed when the roadway was extended eastward to connect with south School Avenue. These included:

- 421 – Southwest Oil 1929, Thomas J. Jefferson barber 1935
- 422 – James W. Hall grocery 1929
- 423 – McCoy Gas Company 1929, Price Oil Company Service Station and McCoy Coal Company 1935, Hanshew Coal Company and Howard wood yard 1939, Arkansas Motor Freight Lines Inc. 1947
- 434 – Bailey feeds, Black Diamond Coal Company and Fred Lester barber 1939, Nickell Hatchery and Andrew Mhoon barber 1947

Travelers along the early road out of town would have frequented any tavern or mercantile in Quicktown, sought out horseshoeing and other blacksmith services, and visited specialized enterprises such as a drug store, which until the early 1900s could dispense various patent medicines including compounds containing opium, cocaine, and alcohol. Following the Civil War, as Cane Hill and other early commercial centers faded and Fayetteville became a more dominant community, travelers from outlying areas would have found Quicktown a convenient location for various shopping needs.Neighborhood residents would have frequented the businesses for groceries and other supplies or services and continued to do so for several decades until motorized transportation and re-routing of primary traffic corridors marginalized the area and left its businesses without adequate patronage. Land records through the 1920s and 30s show several properties endured repeated mortgages and forfeiture for back taxes. Quicktown's fortunes have not improved markedly since that time.

FLASHBACK

Fayetteville's Quicktown was not the only locale thusly named. Charles Sanders Peirce, considered by many as one of America's foremost intellects, purchased a Pennsylvania property on the Delaware River in the late 1880s called Quicktown (after its founder John Quick) which he continued to call Quicktown for many years before later changing the name to Arisbe. Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, also hosts a Quicktown, and other Pennsylvania "Quick" places may have existed because the state was a settlement area for many early colonists named Quick who began migrating westward from New York and New Jersey. A present-day subdivision in South Carolina is named Quicktown, and Laurel Hill, North Carolina, has a Quicktown Road. There was a Quick City in Missouri (not associated with the James Quick family) and another in Indiana, both now ghost towns. Likely all these places—and many others now forgotten—mark the journey of people named Quick.

ENDNOTES

1. Campbell, William, *One Hundred Years of Fayetteville*, p. 19. Campbell writes "road [ran] down the town branch, crossing it above Prairie Avenue bridge, and down through Quicktown section."
2. Ibid., p. 13.
3. A large framed copy of the 1908 city map is available for public view at the Grace Keith Genealogy Collection of the Fayetteville Public Library.
4. Goodspeed, p. 251.
5. There was a Hall and Gallagher Addition developed about halfway between Prairie Street and Center Street, at the jog in South Gregg.

LIGHTS GO ON IN FAYETTEVILLE

THOMAS M. MURRELL

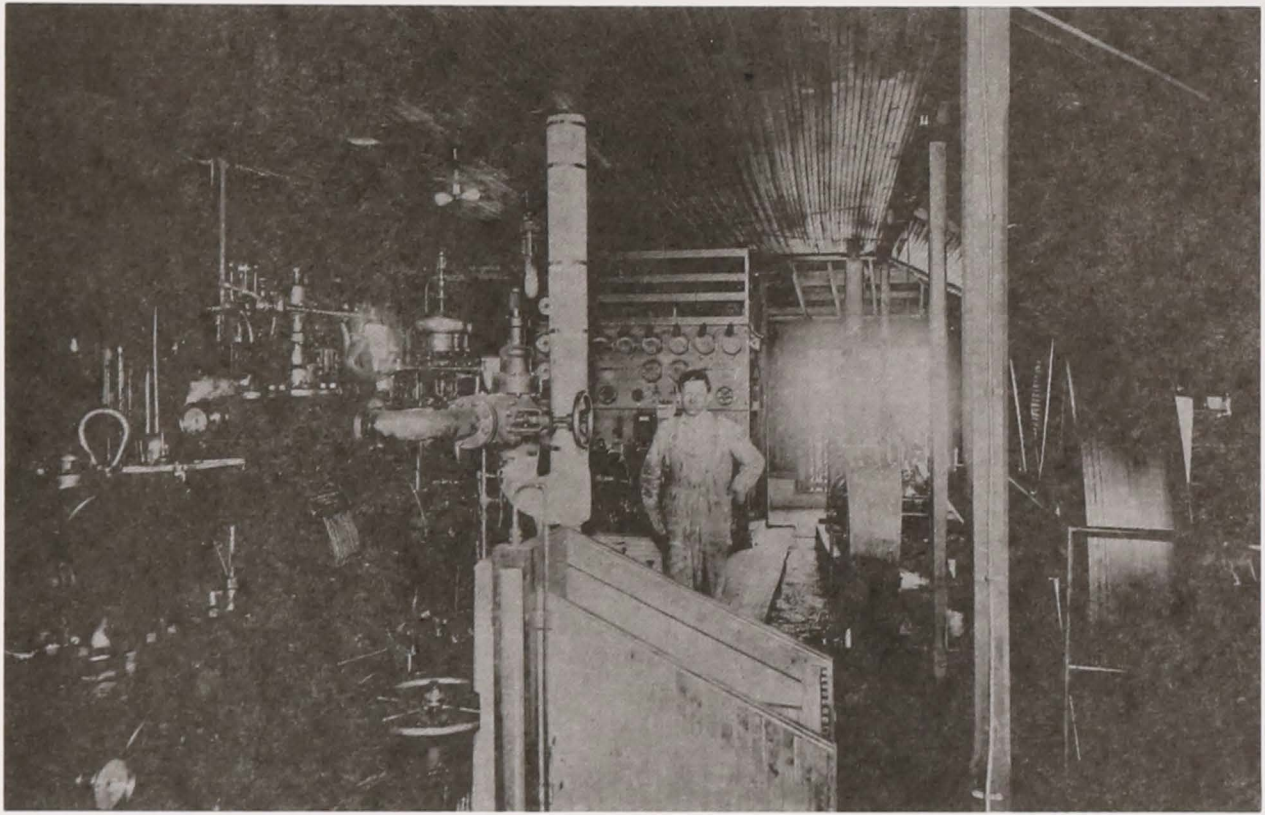
Editor's note: We are grateful to Bill Underwood for sharing this historical document with readers of *Flashback* and for his follow-up comments, which appear after the conclusion of Murrell's account.

Thomas M. Murrell became associated with the electric industry in 1913, when he took the job of plant superintendent for the Fayetteville Power Company. He retired in 1950 from the successor company, Southwestern Electric Power. The following is a transcription of notes compiled by Murrell over a period of years covering the development of electric service in Fayetteville from its beginnings until his retirement.

According to the most reliable information that we have, it was in 1888 that the first effort was made to supply electric service to the city of Fayetteville. The electric light and power company was organized with a stock issue reported as being for $36,000. The names associated with this enterprise are A. M. Byrnes, Lee Baum, J. L. Cravens, J. L. Duke, G. T. Lake, and E. B. Harrison, president.

The resulting electric plant was first installed at a place near to or at the place where the Courthouse [Historic Washington County Courthouse] now stands, and had a reported capacity of "460 Heisler incandescent lamps." Later the equipment was moved to the "old Red Mill at the foot of the hill on the old Greenland road." It was later moved to the Ino P. Scott Mill located on West Street just east of the present Frisco Freight depot. It is reported this generator was rated at 50KW and was built connected to a 75hp Ball high speed steam engine.

There had been a change in ownership, as J. H. McIlroy and Prof. W. N. Gladson of the university had obtained control. A short time later McIlroy sold his share to a Mr. Kerr. The location



Plant superintendent Thomas M. Murrell on the job at the Fayetteville Power Company, 1914 (Courtesy Jacqueline Starling).

of the plant was also changed to a place west of the railroad and at a part where Spring St. and the railroad meet. [This occurred in 1904. The building constructed at that time still stands and houses the Powerhouse restaurant. Bill Underwood describes the structure as built like a fort. He adds that the power-generating nucleus was the 150 KW Bullock generator purchased from the St. Louis Exposition, a very far-sighted move by the city fathers.] The plant remained at this location until dismantled in 1947.

Kerr and Gladson transferred their interest in the plant to F. E. Pratt, who appointed Mr. McLendon superintendent and Pres Williamson as plant engineer.

Prior to 1900 service was only supplied from sundown until midnight and probably for one afternoon or two each week to accommodate customers who wished to iron, etc.

However, with the installation of the new equipment, an effort was made to increase the use of electricity and special inducements were offered to encourage its use, such as $1.25 per drop for wiring houses and full twenty-four service. Electric motors for power were also encouraged, and probably the first to install motor power was the Fayetteville Lumber and Cement Co. at School and Spring Streets and later the Northwest Arkansas Lumber Co. on Dickson St., now known as Kelley Brothers Lumber Co.

During 1912 two new 250hp water tube boilers were installed within a brick building erected for the purpose. In 1913 a 300KW 2400V turbo generator set was placed in operation. During this year ownership also changed, as the property was brought by the Felker interests of Rogers who also controlled the Rogers St. and Water Co. of Rogers with V. McDaniel as manager. McDaniel was also made manager of the Fayetteville property.

Approximately a year later ownership of these properties changed, having been purchased by some New York interests headed by Ele Smith.

The town of Springdale at this time was being supplied by a direct current 50KW generator at 110 volts. This plant was purchased by Smith in about 1918. Immediately work was started to build a 33000 volt transmission line to serve Springdale. Two 100KW 33000 to 2400V transformers were installed at Fayetteville to supply this line and 3-50KW transformers were set at Springdale. Two 25KW transformers were also set at Johnson to serve that town and community.

In 1922 Smith authorized the extension of this 33000 volt line from Springdale to Rogers. The electric service at Rogers was being supplied by two 2200 volt 2 phase 4 wire generators with a total capacity of 225 KW. Three 100KW 33000 volt to 2300V Scot connected transformers were set to serve Rogers and one 25KW transformer was placed at Lowell. In 1923 a 750KW turbo generator was installed at Fayetteville and an additional 200hp boiler was added making a total of 700hp. One 100KW transformer was also added to the present Fayetteville transformer bank.

In about 1924 the Albert Emanuel Co. gained control of these properties with general offices at McAllister, Oklahoma. G. W. Skow was general manager and Walt Miser replaced V. McDaniel as local or division manager.

The towns of Eureka Springs and Harrison were added to the system and 33000 volt lines were build to connect them to the present transmission system. 6600 volt lines were also built to serve nearby towns of Lincoln-Prairie Grove-Greenland-West Fork-Farmington-Cove and Elm Springs-Monte Ne-Avoca-Best Water-Avoca and Pea Ridge.

At about this time Walter Miser was replaced by P. G. Walker as manager, and he in turn was succeeded by H. T. Asberry about two years later.

In 1926 an additional 250hp boiler and a 1500KW turbo generator were installed at Fayetteville. A 33000 volt line was built from Rogers to Gravette and interconnected to the Empire District Electric Co. at that place for mutual emergency service. The towns of Centerton and Hiwasse were also suppled from this line.

In a reorganizational move, the Fayetteville division of the South West Power Co. was placed under the management of the Southwestern Gas and Electric Co. [in 1928] with the general office at Shreveport, Louisiana. A. Lieberman was president and A. Patterson, chief engineer.

By 1928 the increasing load made it necessary to install additional power to serve the interconnected properties. In 1928 a 66000 volt line was built from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to a point near Siloam Springs and three 100KW transformers were installed to supply 33000V service to the present existing lines at that point. In 1929–30 this 66000 volt line was extended to Springdale and a new substation was built from Fayetteville to Fort Smith and the 33000 volt line from Fayetteville was rebuilt and the voltage was changed to 66000 volts. A 3000KW bank of transformers and additional all circuit breakers were installed at Fayetteville, raising the transformer capacity from approximately 1800 KW to 3000 KW.

The power plant was then dismantled, as it had become obsolete and very inefficient. H. T. Asbury had served as manager until his death in 1935, at which time W. F. Thomas was appointed manger and served until his retirement in 1943. E. J. Dyess, who had been serving as division engineer was appointed division manager and is serving in that capacity at the present time. By 1948 the postwar increase in load made it necessary to

further strengthen the sources of supply. The 33000 Rogers-Springdale line was changed to 66000 volts; the 4500KW transformer bank at Springdale was moved to Rogers and an additional 4000KW bank of transformers was installed at Springdale. An additional 3000KW bank of transformers was also installed at Fayetteville. By 1950 the further increase in load made it necessary to increase the supply of power, so a 42 mill 115000 volt transmission line was built from Siloam Springs to Morkhams Ferry, Oklahoma, and a new substation was built near Siloam Springs to connect into our existing 66000 volt lines.

The total capacity of this Siloam Springs station will ultimately be 30000 KW and like the existing substations, is automatic so that a fault in either line or equipment may be automatically separated from the remainder of the system, thereby allowing service to continue as usual.

Bill Underwood adds the following: After generation of power at the Spring Street location ceased in 1947, the smokestack and boilers were removed, and the building became a meter repair facility and later offices for SWEPCO. It was abandoned by them in about 1980 and remained vacant except for storage.

The location for the powerhouse had been chosen because the "Mother Spring" of Spring Street furnished the fresh, cool water needed to cool the evaporator coils. The present parking lot immediately to the west of the building was a holding pond for the spring water.

About 1990 Underwood observed that the building had fallen into great disrepair. It was painted an ugly pink with green trim. The inside had been covered with sheetrock and a false ceiling installed. The roof leaked and water damage was everywhere. He purchased the building in 1991 and restored it. Removal of the sheet rock and several layers of paint exposed the beautiful

original brick and wooden beams. The building is now home to the Powerhouse Seafood & Grill.

Thomas M. Murrell with his granddaughter Jacqueline Van Sickle, Fayetteville, World War II era (Courtesy Jacqueline Van Sickle Starling).

JUSTIN F. SIMONDS'S EARLY REMINISCENCES OF ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL UNIVERSITY

DON E. SCHAEFER

The following letter was found in the Special Collections Division of the University of Arkansas Libraries in the University of Arkansas History manuscript collections, Simonds Reminiscences, MS 738. Professor John H. Reynolds, in his work on the *History of the University of Arkansas* that he wrote with Professor David Y. Thomas in 1910, had evidently written to Justin F. Simonds, requesting information about the early years of the University. The subsequent cover letter from Dr. Simonds, undated, is signed "J. F. Simonds, M.D. and Sanitary Engineer." There is no indication that the material furnished by Dr. Simonds was used in the Reynolds and Thomas history of the University. It may have arrived too late to be included or the authors may have chosen not to use it for other reasons.

Dr. Simonds is listed as a physician on the 1870 census in Hardin County, Iowa. The years on the title of his reminiscences, 1873 to 1876, must represent the years of his association with Arkansas Industrial University. Simonds remained in Fayetteville some years after that and appears on the 1880 census in Fayetteville as a farmer. Interestingly, he was the enumerator for that census. On the 1900 census of Prince George County, Maryland, Simonds was listed as a clerk in a pension office.

Justin F. Simonds should not be confused with Frederic William Simonds who served Arkansas Industrial University as

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Don Schaefer was editor of *Flashback* 1995–2000 and assistant director of information at the University of Arkansas 1970–1995. He is currently writing a history of all buildings at the U of A main campus, both past and present.

professor of biology and geology from 1887 to 1890. There is no indication that the two men were related.

It was reassuring to read of Dr. Simonds's account of the University's original two-story frame building having been located first on the site where Old Main now stands. A few years earlier I had come to that conclusion without having such a direct, eyewitness, account. This was in an article I wrote, "First U of A Buildings: Where did they begin," which appeared on pages 32–40 in the February 1995 *Flashback*.

Mr. Reynolds:-

Dear frd - You will learn by the accompanying notes that I never was a "professor" in A.I.U. although I used to give some "talks" to the class in Agriculture, having had considerable experience on a 200 acre farm in Iowa. I was the first & only Regent of the University—the law creating the office having been repealed. I can give you considerable more reminiscences if you desire more, & if after reading what I have written you still want more, and want my pedigree, education, etc. & photo as you have indicated in your letter I can give it. What I have written seems quite egotistical, but it seems necessary. I don't suppose that much of the six pages I have written will be considered proper in a history but you can censor it to suit yourself.

Very truly
J. F. Reynolds M.D.
& Sanitary Engineer

Reminiscences in Connection With the Arkansas Industrial University From 1873 to 1876

My first visit to Fayetteville was in June 1873 at the commencement exercises in company with Dr. Welch President of

the Iowa Agricultural College. He had been invited to give the principal address of the occasion with his engagement as President of A.I.U. in view. But his terms of $4,000 salary per annum with a contract for ten years service was too big an undertaking for the Board of Trustees! Prof. N. P. Gates was acting president. He was superintendent of schools in Little Rock & the Trustees had selected him to set the University to going. I believe he continued to act as President until Genl. D. H. Hill was elected to that position.

A two story frame building had been erected upon the site now occupied by the main building, which was moved back about 100 yards and was still used for school purposes and after the erection of the main building it was converted to a chemical laboratory and dormitory. Ground was broken for the main building in July 1873 while I was still in Fayetteville. An architect was employed and the contract was let to some St. Louis contractors and the architect was employed to superintend the work. And right here I wish to tell a little matter which I think was never told before relative to the construction of the building. Judge Lafayette Gregg of Fayetteville was a member of the Board of Trustees and had been appointed as the Building Committee of the Board and as I had had considerable experience in the same capacity during the building of the Iowa Agricultural College, the Judge one day when I was in his office asked me to look over the contract & the specifications for the building which I did. The next day I visited the work which was then up to the second story and I soon discovered that the contractors were skimping the work especially the size of joists and studding and quality of lumber. I reported my discovery to Judge Gregg who soon satisfied himself that I was correct. The result was, that he called a halt on the work, & also called a meeting of the full Board of Trustees. When after some legal proceedings the contractor & superintendent were discharged and "Zebe" Mayes (father of Frank Mayes) was given the contract & Maj. Hendry was selected as superintendent of the work which went on honestly to

completion. The first two stories only were completed, while the remaining stories and basement were not finished until several years later. This is the first time that my connection with the halt in the building of the University was ever told or known, unless it was told by Judge Gregg & I don't think he did.

With the first organization of the Board of Trustees was also authorized a Board of Visitors whose duties were to examine well the conduct of the University in all particulars both educational & financial & report to the Governor who appointed them. In 1875 I was appointed by Gov. Garland as a member of that Board and did my duties as best I knew how. The legislature of 1874–75 created the office of Regent whose duties were to manage the whole agricultural and mechanical departments—serve as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, collect all tuition, receive all moneys, pay all the bills and in truth general Factotum of the school. For the correct doing [of] this business I was under bond of $20,000. I neglected to State that I was appointed to the office of Regent by the Board of Trustees in June 1875. These are two or three incidents in connection with my office as Regent which I wish to mention. First there were fewer students during the school year of 1875 & 1876 than there ever had been before, but more money was collected for tuition than had ever been collected before, and second, the catalogue of that scholastic year is the only one that has ever been published without a single typographical error.

During most of my service as Regent and Secy of the Board of Trustees, Wm H. Miller was Governor & ex officio President of the Board. During the last evening of commencement exercises in June 1876 Trustee Johnson left the rostrum & came to me & said that the Governor would not be able to make his talk & deliver diplomas to the graduates unless he had some brandy, for he was almost "played out" and wouldn't I go down town & get some for him. Why certainly, & accordingly I went down to the village drug store & got a pint of brandy for the Governor for which I paid my own money. The Governor met me in my office and took a hearty

drink & requested me to keep the remainder in the office, as he would need another drink after the exercises and a little the next morning. After the Governor had his last drink after the exercises were over, at his request I put the bottle in the little "grip" which I used daily to bring the letters & other mail from the Post Office & the next morning he was on hand bright & early as soon as I opened the office to get a "swig" before the other Trustees arrived. That was the day when the Board discussed the character & capacity of each professor & it appears that they also had me "over the coals." Some one had reported to the Board that I was quite intemperate & that I always carried a bottle of whiskey with me in that "grip." Judge Gregg stated that he did not believe I was intemperate, but if I did always keep whiskey on hand there would probably be some of it in my "grip" there, & so another member of the Board opened the grip and sure enough there it was, & I was convicted without judge or jury. And there sat Gov. Miller for whom I had procured the liquor, and Trustee Johnson who knew all about the transaction without saying a word in explanation of the presence of the bottle of liquor & thus my intemperance was proven. Several years after Judge Gregg told me what happened in [his] office about the liquor as I have repeated it here.

THE LAST FRONTIER

FRANK MOHNEY

The following is an address given by Frank Mohney, a regional sales manager for Jones Truck Lines of Springdale, before four hundred business and professional men and women, including Gov. Clifford Hansen of Wyoming and Mayor Bill Nation of Cheyenne, Wyoming, at a chicken dinner sponsored by the Northwest Arkansas delegation to the Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration on July 22, 1964.

History

Northwest Arkansas was carved out of the Osage Cessions of 1818. These counties lie along the White River and around its headwaters. Its hills and prairie land proved to be a virtual paradise for the early settlers coming into the state.

Early settlers brought with them the Anglo-Saxon traditions as they moved westward from the Tennessee-Kentucky hill country. Individual initiative, confidence of ability and progressive performance have stamped their trademark on this area. From the rich heritage of its early developers to the present day, the attitude of the people has been progress for themselves and those people who have come to join them and become a part of the region, where today you still get a dollar's worth of labor for a dollar's pay.

White settlers reached this region in the 1800–1830 period. In 1829 Washington County Court House at Fayetteville was built.

The oldest Masonic Lodge in Arkansas was founded at Fayetteville in 1835.

The first organized schools were begun in 1839 and 1840. Arkansas College was established in Fayetteville in 1852 and was the first degree-granting college in Arkansas. Then in 1872 at

Fayetteville, the University of Arkansas opened with eight students.

By 1882 the Frisco railroad opened up Northwest Arkansas, followed shortly by the Kansas City Southern.

1886 brought the first telephones and in 1888 the first electric lights and power.

From the very beginning, agriculture has played an important part in the economy of this area. Prior to the Civil War, cotton, tobacco, hogs, cattle, and mules were the basic money crops. During this period, Bentonville had a tobacco factory which produced over one-half million pounds of tobacco annually. After the [Civil] War, cotton and tobacco declined as money crops, (today neither are grown in the area) and the coming of the railroads brought apple production into commercial importance. By 1919 Northwest Arkansas had the largest number of bearing apple trees in the United States and reached a peak crop of five million bushels—with peaches and strawberries adding to the economy.

With the decline of fruit production during the 1920–1930 period, a trend toward dairy and poultry production was started.

Climate

Northwest Arkansas is located in the Ozark highlands. The elevation of the cities varies from 1183 feet to 1720 feet. Mountains to the south and east run as high as 2900 feet.

Precipitation averages 45 inches annually–the heaviest being in April, May, and June—and September being secondary. The growing season averages 185 days per year, allowing us to raise two crops of certain vegetables.

Snowfall averages nine inches per season. Snow usually remains on the ground only a few days at any one snowfall. The first usually is in December and the last in February.

Extremely cold weather does not persist. Usually the temperature falls to zero or below only a few times each winter. the lowest temperature ever recorded in the area was -24 degrees in February 1889.

Mean average temperatures over a 25-year period are: January 28 & 48, April 48 & 71, August 67 & 90, October 50 & 75.

Summers in the area are relatively long. Maximum temperatures of 90 degrees or more occur on an average of 60 days each summer; the highest ever recorded in the area was 104 in 1954. These days are tempered by cool nights as minimum temperatures average 65 degrees in June and 68 degrees in July and August—with an average humidity being 60 percent.

You can easily see why we all enjoy living in Northwest Arkansas by comparing it with your climate. We play golf 12 months of the year, making our area a year-round playground.

Churches

Since the Cumberland Presbyterian church was established in Fayetteville in 1820, the number has grown to over 200 churches.

A high percentage of church membership and well-attended worship services is the rule. Expansion of the churches both in physical plant and services attests not only to the population growth and development, but also to the growth and development of the spiritual life of the area citizens.

A large number of faiths, beliefs, or denominations are represented by the churches in the area. They range from Assembly of God to Unitarian—almost A to Z.

Education

Education standards rank high in Northwest Arkansas. All schools have vocational courses in agriculture, home economics, and industrial arts. All schools are accredited by the North Central Association.

We have two universities in the area. John Brown University, located at Siloam Springs, is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and the Arkansas State Department of Education as a four-year college. It stresses teaching of mind, hands, and soul and has an enrollment of 350 students.

The University of Arkansas is the only state-supported university, and the main campus is located at Fayetteville, while the School of Medicine is at Little Rock. The University has grown from 8 students in 1872 to 7000 students. Their three-fold function is to teach—to search and to serve.

The University athletic program has enjoyed its greatest success in recent years. Everyone knows about the Razorbacks and their "Woo Pig Soooooooeeeee"!

Communications

News and advertising media amply cover Northwest Arkansas. The area is served by three daily newspapers, seven weekly newspapers, and six radio stations. Each of the five major cities has a TV cable system which clearly receives five TV stations. Those who do not wish to subscribe to the cable system and who have an "all channel" antenna may receive as many as seven TV stations.

Each community as well as the entire area enjoys most excellent support from all news media in its collective and separate efforts toward growth and development.

Transportation

Considerable credit for our wonderful growth is due to the excellent transportation we have in the area. We are serviced by two railroads and three major common carrier trucking firms. One has its general offices in Springdale, while the other two have theirs within a 100-mile radius. In addition, there are numerous contract carriers that haul produce and poultry.

Central Airlines offers air passenger service connecting with all major air terminals in the nation from Fayetteville.

The area is also served by two continental bus companies.

Agriculture

Poultry is King of a highly diversified agriculture program in Northwest Arkansas. Arkansas is the number two state in the nation in poultry production, with this area accounting for approximately 70 percent of the Arkansas total. This amounted to over 75 million dollars worth of poultry and poultry products sold last year.

We are represented by some of the giants in the industry in Northwest Arkansas—Tyson's (largest broiler producers west of the Mississippi River), George's Ledbrest, Arbor Acres, Wilson & Co., Hales & Hunter, International Genetics, Jeff Browns, Springdale Farms, Campbell Soups, Swanson Div., Ark. Poultry Coop, Peterson's, Pluss, Franz, Ocoma, Cobbs and Ralston Purina.

Almost every city has at least one poultry processing plant.

Poultry is big business in Arkansas as its $250 million last year will attest.

This is also one of the oldest dairying areas of the state and has three of the nation's best known names in the industry: Kraft, Pet, and Standard Milk.

In recent years sheep production has been growing and Arkansas is now being recognized as a sheep producing area.

Fruits and vegetables have long been a mainstay of the agricultural economy, with several canning companies in the area, and beans, spinach, and tomatoes as the principal crops.

Grape vineyards abound throughout the area with Welch's plant in Springdale for processing them.

With the utilization of chicken litter as an excellent soil builder to make better pastures, more and more beef is being raised in the area. Each of the major cities successfully operates livestock sale barns through which thousands of heads of livestock are sold weekly.

The average size of farms in the area is slightly over 100 acres. About three-fourths of these are owner-operated. Average value of the land is about $124 per acre.

Financial Growth

The oldest bank in Arkansas is located in this area.

A steady growth pattern has been established in the growth of financial deposits and total resources during the past decade in Northwest Arkansas. The area has experienced an increase in total financial resources of 20 percent the past year, 64 percent the past five years, and an impressive 134 percent the past ten years. This brings the total resources to over $169 million.

This has been brought about by the continued growth of our local industries and new industry coming in. Some of the manufacturing firms located in our area are: Baldwin Piano, Kearney Electric, Standard Register, Shakespeare, Elkhart Products, Oberman Manufacturing, Bear Brand Hosiery, Fulbright Wood Products, Steele Canning, Heekin Can, Hillock Mfg., Citation Mfg., Waukesha Tools, Franklin Electric, Ralph Jones Company, Webb Wheel, Allen Canning, Daisy Manufacturing,

Rogers Wood Products, Deeming Pump, Wendt-Sonis, Hoyt Corp., Speas Vinegar, Munsingwear, two Kraft Cheese Plants, Gravette Shelling, Bentonville Mfg., Bentonville Casting General Business Forms, Glick Manufacturing, Ocoma foods, Claymore Manufacturing, Continental Can Co., plus numerous others. A $25 million atomic energy electric plant is being built by the public utility companies in the area.

So we do not only have old and new industries, but they are also diversified so that we can build a strong economy.

While the rest of Arkansas has been losing population, Northwest Arkansas has shown a tremendous increase in the past ten years. This has been brought about by our rapid pace of industrialization.

Beaver Lake

One of our most talked about projects is a new 28,220-acre lake. It will be used for flood control, generation of hydro-electric power, recreation, and municipal water supply. Four cities in the area have contracted for 120 million gallons of water per day.

Beaver Dam is the fourth major dam to be constructed on the upper White River. Construction began in 1959 and will be completed during 1965—at a cost of $51 million. The dam itself is completed and the lake is filling now. but it will be next year before the power plant is completed.

When filled to normal flood-control pool, 1,130 feet above sea-level, the reservoir will be 70 miles long. The maximum width will be two miles and will have a 483-mile shoreline.

The fish stocking program for Beaver Reservoir is second to none—anywhere! One million adult bass are to be released, 24,000 six-inch yearling bass, 44,770 yearling crappie, 42,000 yearling channel catfish, 19,000 2-21/2 lb. channel catfish,

3,400,000 walleye fry, and 920,000 northern pike fry. Fry size are just newly hatched fish.

The pike have been put in Beaver Lake to control the rough fish. It is true they will also eat the desirable fish, but our local hatcheries will be able to produce and replenish the desirable fish and the pike will control the undesirable. Bass, crappie, and other fish will be able to spawn and reproduce, while the pike will not be able to, due to the shallow water temperature being too warm. As pike need to be added to control the rough fish, they can be added. So the fishing in this area will be second to none in the United States.

Summary

But along with our recreation, education, Christian atmosphere, agriculture, and industry, our biggest asset is our people. Over 50 percent of them own their own homes. We still have an ample labor supply of people who still believe in the free American enterprise system and give an hour's work for an hour's pay.

They are a friendly people who still take the time to stop and visit and give a helping hand to any worth-while community project. Sure the pace is slower than in your large metropolitan areas, but believe me, you just can't find a better place to rear your children into honest, God-loving, law-abiding citizens—and enjoy doing it.

Our area is also very attractive to people of retirement age. Several of the communities have meeting places for them to gather and become friends with people of their own age and interests. Land prices and taxes are still realistic, and they can afford to live in an area where their many varied interests can be followed in a mild climate.

We are a homogenized people. Industry has brought enough new people in to mix with the old settlers until now it is very hard to find a native of the area. We are far enough south to have southern hospitality, but yet far enough north to be aggressive in our endeavors.

We are proud of our area and we want you all to come and visit us. You won't be disappointed—your only regret will be that you can't stay longer.

Regardless of what you are looking for, I'm sure you can find it in the Playground of the Ozarks.

If you are a business man looking for a new plant location, we have the land, transportation, water, labor, and the means to finance them.

If you are going to retire, we have the necessary ingredients to satisfy your needs.

If you are looking for a vacation area to long remember, we have lakes for fishing and water sports, camping sites, mountains for scenery; in fact, Eureka Springs is called the Little Switzerland of America. We have ample motel and hotel facilities, plus some of the finest restaurants in the nation.

If you are a rodeo fan, we have our Rodeo of the Ozarks during the week of July 4th. This was the 20th annual one and is held in Springdale. Cowboys from all over the nation participate, since points earned here count toward the Cowboy of the Year title. This year they attracted 40,000 people in four days and grossed $50,000.

This August Tontitown, a community that was originally settled by Italians, will hold their 66th annual Grape Festival.

Then, every October, in the "Land of the Crossbow," Huntsville, the National Crossbow Matches and Medieval Pageant are held.

Also held each fall is the War Eagle Arts and Crafts Fair. This is where artists and craftsmen from all over the nation

display their wares for the public to view and buy. It is very unique and a worthwhile venture.

So regardless of what your interests are, we know you will find it in Northwest Arkansas–whether it be during the blooming of the redbud and dogwood trees in the spring or the flaming review of color when the leaves turn in the fall–YOU ALL COME!

THE MURDER OF JAMES BOONE

GRETCHEN GEARHART

The July 3, 1928, edition of the *Fayetteville (Ark.) Democrat* commemorating Fayetteville's centennial carries an interview with Mrs. Nora Carlisle of Fayetteville by University of Arkansas journalism student Stephen A. Cisler in which Carlisle relates an account of the murder in 1856 of her great-grandfather, James Monroe Boone, an early Washington County settler and physician.

References to Dr. Boone and his violent death are found in the pages of *Flashback*, but a full account of the affair is lacking. The following is a piecing together of those accounts along with Carlisle's version, an account compiled recently by another descendant, and a brief mention in the *Fort Smith Herald* of July 12, 1856.

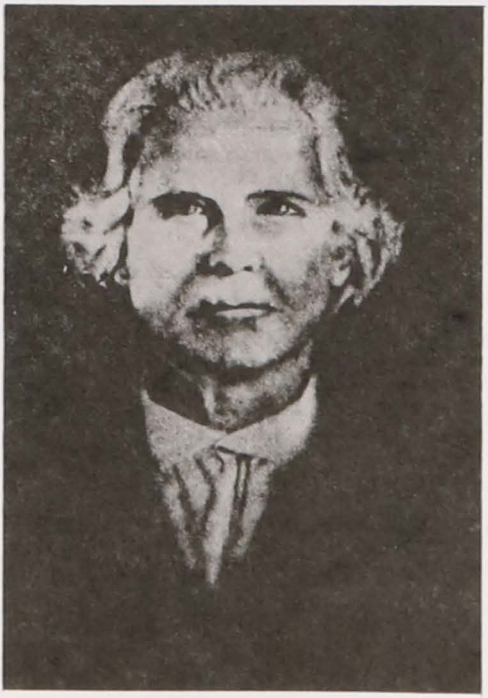
Carlisle's version is most likely based on family lore, and certainly errs on some details. She gave the year of the attack as 1857 and said that the doctor died the day after the attack. Other accounts give the time of the attack as May 29, 1856. Boone's burial vault gives the date of death as June 11, 1856.

James Boone was a prominent citizen of Washington County. He may have been the first physician to come into the county, having settled here in 1830. He became a wealthy man. 1836 assessment records list his properties as three farms and four city lots, probably in Fayetteville. In 1856 he owned 2,100 acres and fourteen slaves. He served in the Constitutional Convention of 1836 and, according to a great-great granddaughter, in the Territorial and State Legislatures.

Gretchen Gearhart is editor of *Flashback: Journal of the Washington County Historical Society*. She wishes to thank Ruby Stokenbury Wells, Mary Virginia Moore Stokenbury, and Tony Wappel, Washington County archivist, for their assistance.

His two-story home in Richland Creek Valley, near present-day Elkins, was the first brick house in the valley. (A part of the house was still standing in 1984.) An earlier home for Boone was built probably just above the cemetery on land he homesteaded west of Greenland in 1836. The farm was later known as the Rutherford home.

Boone's wife was the former Sophronia (Sophie) Smith from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The Boones had four sons—Daniel Thales Beya, Benjamin Franklin, Euler Bernoulli, and Lafayette, and one daughter, Cornelia, who died at age two. Only Lafayette lived in Washington County after the Civil War.



James Monroe Boone (*History of Washington County, Arkansas*, p.865, Shiloh Museum of Ozark History).

In Carlisle's account of the murder she says that Boone, desirous of bettering the condition of his slaves, offered to give them the proceeds of the farm and retain only the power of management. He appointed a trusted slave as overseer and gave the man a horse on which to make the rounds of the farm. Thinking the overseer was given more than his share of the earnings, the other slaves were jealous. On a spring morning the housekeeper found an unconscious Boone lying near his bedroom. On the floor were three hickory clubs with which Boone had been beaten during the night.

Carlisle continued:

> A son residing at Neosho, Missouri, was sent for through a slave messenger on horseback. While this slave was gone, a suspicion arose that he might have had a hand in the crime and so another slave was dispatched to have him arrested. The trailing slave met the suspect and the son, who were returning to the Ozarks. On arrival at the homestead the suspect was placed along with the other two ringleaders in a small room at the top of the house, and the door guarded day and night.
>
> The jailors declared one evening that they would "just go away and let them starve," and then imitated departing footsteps but remained quietly outside. During the night the negroes became restless and talked of the crime. The listeners obtained sufficient evidence from the conversation to satisfy themselves that the slaves were guilty and later took them to the jail at Fayetteville.

Fayetteville the next day was the scene of a milling mob which congregated on the dirt streets and clustered in little knots about the jail steps. As the afternoon passed, speeches became more fiery and the climax was reached when one of the Boones jumped on the courthouse steps and shouted: "Procrastination is the thief of time; I say hang them now!" The willing mob swarmed through the jail and brought the negroes out. One of them was returned to his cell because he was the property of a neighbor of the murdered man. [Slaves were valuable property, often selling for $1,000 and more.]

Down to the old Governor Yell mansion at the end of south College Avenue the party took its way, and there to one of the big trees which are still standing, the two Boone slaves were hanged for their part in the murder. The Williams negro was later tried and hanged.

Lila Boone Michael, great-great-grandaughter of Dr. Boone, contributed the following account to the *History of Washington County Arkansas* published by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History:

In 1854 James Boone freed all of his slaves and paid them to work and furnished houses for their families. He sold some of his land and was moderately self-sufficient with the help of his former slaves.

On an evening in late May 1856, he was home with his housekeeper, "Aunt Thursey," and her husband, "Uncle Edmund," when he heard a commotion at the west door and went to investigate. He was surprised to see two of his former slaves, Anthony and Aaron, with Randall, who belonged to his neighbor and brother-in-

law, David Wilson Williams. The men told him they had come for his money, and when he refused them, they beat him to the porch with wooden clubs and left him for dead. He was able to tell his housekeeper the names of his attackers before he died on June 11. The negroes confessed and were brought to trial. Randall was found guilty. Anthony and Aaron were accomplices, so they were discharged. Benjamin and Lafayette hung the two killers on a tree between the Boone farm and Fayetteville.

The negroes confessed, were brought to trial in July, and Randall was hanged after being found guilty of first-degree murder. Anthony and Aaron were accomplices and could not be convicted on testimony of another accomplice, so they were discharged. Dr. Boone's sons, Ben and Lafayette, hanged the two killers on a tree between the Boone farm and Fayetteville. Fear of rioting and unsettled conditions prevailing before the War was sufficient reason to hush up the whole tragic chain of events.

The Circuit Court Records for July 1856 tell a somewhat different story:

July 1, 1856: the grand jury returned a bill of indictment against Anthony, Randall, and Aaron (slaves) for the murder of James Boone. The next day J. M. Tebbetts was appointed prosecuting attorney. [This was the Jonas Tebbetts who built Headquarters House on Dickson Street in Fayetteville.] Each defendant pled not guilty.

July 2: The following were named to serve on the jury: Arthur Crawford, Henry Gallahor, Henry Brock, I. L. Carlile,

Hugh A. Elder, Jesse M. Gilstrap, John Williams, Edward Brown, Robin Hodge, A. K. Chandler, Burrell W. Featherston, and William Smith. The Court appointed as counsel P. P. Vanhoose and E. C. Boudinot.

July 3: After hearing evidence, the jury found Randall guilty of murder in the first degree. Court adjourned until July 5.

July 5: Tebbetts said he was unwilling further to prosecute this suit as to the defendent Aaron and Aaron was discharged of the indictment.

The jury consisting of James T. Bell, John Wilson, A. T. [D.?] Barron, Jacob Cook, Thomas Cline, James Moon, John Dearing, John Harness, Thomas Blackmon, William Eidson, Joseph Miller Jr., and William Coldwell found Anthony not guilty and he was acquitted.

July 7: Randall asked for a new trial but was denied. The judge sentenced him to be hanged August 1 between 10 A.M. and 3 P.M.

Nothing more appears in the Court records.

The *Fort Smith Herald*, July 12, 1856, carries the story's conclusion:

> We learn from a gentleman recently returned from Fayetteville that a large number of the citizens of Washington county who resided in the neighborhood of Dr. Boone, who was murdered some time since by his negroes, headed by the Drs. sons, came to Fayetteville on Monday last, took two of the negroes out of jail and hung them. The negroes hung had been acquitted at a special term of the court held last week by Judge Batson for the purpose of trying them. One of the three, charged with the murder, was convicted and is now under sentence; the crowd did not molest him. We learn that the crowd before proceeding to the jail held a meeting

> at the court house and passed resolutions. While there they were addressed by Judge Batson, Mr. Wilson, and others who endeavored to dissuade them from their purpose but without effect.
>
> We cannot approve of mob law and without passing any opinion upon this occurrence we regret to have to chronicle such an event.

Lloyd McConnell, longtime Washington County Circuit Clerk and frequent contributor to *Flashback*, wrote an account in the February 1982 issue of this journal that the slave of a neighbor was found guilty in the court trial. The doctor's two slaves were released, but on their way home were taken into custody by a group of men and hanged somewhere in the vicinity of Stone's Bridge over the West Fork River.

Dr. Boone was buried in a family cemetery a mile and a half west of Greenland, where he had buried his wife and daughter. His vault was described in the May 1954 *Flashback* as imposing and surmounted by a four-foot pyramidal shaft.

The February 1972 issue of *Flashback* contains an item by McConnell reporting that a Jeff Boone had come to Fayetteville from New Mexico to visit the burial place of his ancestors. He found the Boone cemetery lying unused for more than one hundred years and showing its neglect. Jeff and other family members contributed funds to fence the plot, cut the overgrowth, and put up an identifying sign.

I visited this cemetery in September 2006. It is located in a pasture not far from Highway 540. Weeds inside the enclosure are at least five feet high, and the pyramidal shaft is awry. Most of the inscriptions are illegible, but Dr. Boone's is clear enough to verify the date of his death. The stone vault is coffin-shaped and indicates that he was not very tall. His descendants continue to be slight in stature.

FLASHBACK

Ruby Wells and her mother, Mary Stokenbury, showed me the site of Dr. Boone's home in Elkins. A 1940s photograph shows a two-story, small but substantial house. Bricks made by slaves for that house form a portion of the exterior now standing in its place. The banks of a nearby creek are said to be the location of the slave cabins. Today a subdivision of several hundred homes is under construction on what was James Boone's farm.

A reader may wonder what happened to Benjamin and Lafayette. At the time of the murder and lynching, Benjamin was about twenty-six years old and Lafayette, twenty-two. Both had attended the Louisville Law School. Benjamin was a prominent citizen, serving three sessions in the state legislature and practicing law with Jonas Tebbetts. Later he established the post office of Boone's Grove in 1857 and was a merchant. He enlisted in the Confederate army, was wounded at the Battle of Prairie Grove and died three months later. One of his sons, Edwin, is the grandfather of Mary Stokenbury.

Lafayette Boone also fought for the Confederate cause. He was struck in the head by shrapnel at the Battle of Corinth and as a result was severely handicapped for life. He lived in Washington County until his death in 1900.

SOURCES

Circuit Court Records, Washington County Archives
Fayetteville (Ark.) Democrat, July 3, 1928
Flashback, selected issues from 1952 through 1984
History of Washington County Arkansas, published by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN 2006

At its annual meeting on October 1, 2006, Ben, Joe, and Patrick Hall presented the the Washington County Historical Society Distinguished Citizen Award to their father, Dr. Joe B. Hall.

Dr. Hall founded the Fayetteville Diagnostic Clinic in 1957, a major advance in medical care in Northwest Arkansas. This building, located at the corner of Trenton Street and Lollar Lane in the Wilson Park area, opened with two physicians. Today the clinic has over twenty-five physicians and providers and is the largest internal medicine based subspecialty clinic in Northwest Arkansas.

A respect for the country doctor of yesteryear led Dr. Hall to establish the Hall of Honor and Oral History Video Programs at the Arkansas Country Doctor Museum at Lincoln. Over seventy videos of interviews have been recorded for the museum's library. Hall continues to serve as a volunteer at the museum.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Gretchen Gearhart will turn over the editorship of *Flashback: Journal of the Washington County Historical Society* as of Volume 57, No. 1, Winter 2007, issue to Timothy G. Nutt. Nutt is Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Library. Before coming to Fayetteville he served as editor of the Pulaski County Historical Journal.

Gearhart wishes to express her appreciation to all the contributors to *Flashback* over the past four and a half years, as well as to its readers, for their support.

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